

Subject Salt Applicator Certification Program

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Overview

This bill would require the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) to develop a voluntary training program for commercial applicators of deicers (ex. salt) to promote best management practices and provide certification to those who complete the training and pass an exam. Provides certified applicators and owners/lessees of property that hire certified applicators certain liability protection from damages arising from snow/ice hazards.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Salt applicators; voluntary certification program. Establishes a voluntary salt applicator certification program.
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Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines “certified commercial applicator,” “commercial applicator,” “deicer,” and “owner” for purposes of the new voluntary certification program and liability protections.

Subd. 2. Voluntary certification program; best management practices; training. Requires the PCA to develop a training program promoting best management practices for snow and ice removal and deicer application. Allows commercial applicators of deicers that successfully complete the program and pass an exam to become certified. Requires certifications to be renewed every ten years and the PCA to provide additional training for those renewing their certifications. Requires the initial training to be conducted at locations statewide and allows the recertification training to be done online. Requires the PCA to designate other entities that are approved to provide the training and maintain a list of those entities on the agency’s website. Requires the PCA to post best management practices and a list of certified applicators on the agency’s website. Allows the PCA and approved training providers to charge a fee not to exceed \$350. Approved training providers are allowed to retain half of the fee, the other

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half must be submitted to the PCA. Fees received by the PCA are to be deposited in the environmental fund.

Subd. 3. Liability. Provides certain liability protection for a certified applicator, or the owner/lessee of land maintained by a certified applicator using the best management practices. States that the liability protections do not apply in certain circumstances.

Subd. 4. Record keeping. Requires a certified commercial applicator to keep records, including copies of winter maintenance assessment tool requirements and certain treatment and condition records for at least six years.

Subd. 5. Penalty. Allows the PCA to revoke or decline to renew a certification of an applicator who violates this section or rules adopted under this section.

Subd. 6. Relation to other law. States that nothing in this section affects existing municipal liability.

Subd. 7. Reporting required. Requires a certified commercial applicator to submit annual reports to the PCA on the amounts and types of deicers used in the previous calendar year.

Effective date: States that the section is effective August 1, 2025, and applies to claims arising on or after that date.



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